DC Fire & EMS Patient Care Policies: Transfer of Care: Non-Transporting EMT-P to Transporting EMT-P

Note Well: *To define the situations where it is permissible for a non-transporting EMT-P to transfer patient care to a transporting EMT-P, and to expedite the transfer of patient care.*

I. Policy

1. A non-transporting EMT-P may transfer to a transporting EMT-P under the following conditions:

    A. The patient demonstrates no hemodynamic or respiratory instability where deterioration is anticipated.

    B. The patient meets mechanistic critical trauma triage criteria only.

2. A non-transporting EMT-P shall not transfer care to a transporting EMT-P under the following conditions

    A. Hemodynamic instability, defined as

        i. Systolic B/P less than 80 mmHg.

        ii. Heart rate less than 40 bpm or greater than 150 bpm.

        iii. GCS less than 8 due to an acute change in condition.

        iv. Ventricular tachycardia.

    B. Impending respiratory compromise or failure.

    C. Utilization of the following:

        i. Nasotracheal or orotracheal intubation. This includes airway instrumentation attempts and aborts.

I. Policy (continued)

D. The patient meets anatomic or physiologic critical trauma triage criteria.

E. Any patient that the transporting EMT-P deems to be unstable.

F. Any patient whose condition required two or more EMT-Ps to adequately deliver care prior to transport or anticipated during transport.

3. Medical control is not required for the transfer of care. EMT-Ps are encouraged to utilize direct medical control to expedite the transfer of care whenever questions arise.

4. The non-transporting EMT-Ps that transfer care shall document the emergency response and care delivered on the Patient Care Report. Only one report is necessary, as long as it specifies which EMT-Ps performed what care.

5. Non-transporting EMT-Ps that travel to the hospital shall document the emergency response and care delivered on the Patient Care Report. The report shall be completed prior to leaving the hospital.